

The Rural District Council of Hexham

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and of

THE CHIEF

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year, 1961

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1961

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., *Medical Officer of Health.*

Public Health Department, Prospect House, Hexham.
Telephone Nos. : Hexham 245 & 141.

Duties :

J. HEWITT, M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector

G. B. HOGG, A.R.S.H. M.A.P.H.I.
*Senior Additional Public Health
Inspector.*

W. FORSTER, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector

D. H. REED, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector

Public Health.
Housing.
Meat and Foods.
Inspection
Council House
Management
Refuse Collection
and Disposal.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

———o———

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Hexham.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

Apart from a steady improvement in health and amenities, there is little change to comment on in the social conditions of the area. This large Rural District, predominantly agricultural, does not change greatly from year to year, and the Tyneside Review Area Commission have not proposed any major alterations. There is however a steady development of private house building, and further expansion is planned within the limits of the green belt. The only industrial development of importance is the proposed establishment of a chipboard factory at Anick Grange which will employ some hundreds of people and will be a welcome addition to the opportunities for employment in the Hexham area.

The vital statistics for 1961 are close to the national average, and the infant mortality rate is below the national figure. Three of the five infant deaths were due to prematurity, still the most common cause of such deaths and non-preventable in the present state of knowledge. The general death rate calls for no special comment, showing as usual a high proportion of deaths from degenerative disease in the elderly.

Measles accounted for almost all notifications of infectious disease during the year, and was widespread throughout the country. Apart from that, a few cases of scarlet fever and pneumonia were notified, and one case each of whooping cough, erysipelas and puerperal pyrexia. Scarlet fever is not the serious disease it used to be, and while it is endemic and affects individuals it has not been seen in epidemic form for some years. It is still however potentially dangerous if it develops in handlers of milk or food, and control is still necessary. The decline of such other diseases as whooping cough, diphtheria and poliomyelitis is due to the availability of protective immunisation and the wide extent to which

parents seek such protection. Another preventive measure, the control of bovine tuberculosis, has meant that another preventable disease, non-pulmonary tuberculosis, is being prevented. No case was notified during the year. There was one death from this cause, but it was of an elderly person who presumably acquired infection many years ago. Five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1961, compared with eleven in 1960, and there was one death. Only one case notified was under 45, and the trend away from the young adult has been noted in recent years. A great deal is now being done by way of adequate treatment of the patient and the tracing and treatment of contacts, with a steady improvement in the incidence and outcome of the disease.

The Council continue their policy of providing houses for old people in small groups in a number of centres of population, and 22 bungalows were built during 1961 in Corbridge, Barrasford, Humshaugh and Ovington. The provision of sheltered accommodation for the frail elderly, planned for Corbridge, did not advance during the year, as the requisition of a suitable site is presenting difficulty. An obvious need for it exists, and increases year by year. No family houses were built by the Council during 1961, but schemes at Corbridge and Stocksfield were planned. On the other hand 43 houses were built privately and a further 58 were under construction.

A further 64 improvement grants were made during the year to bring the total to over 750. The value of preserving existing houses and extending their useful life, and at the same time providing modern amenities, is of inestimable value in a Rural District, and the Council have done much to assist in that way. The grants have largely been taken up by owner-occupiers, but it is hoped that under the new Housing Act owners will be encouraged to improve rented property. The Council themselves during 1961 have undertaken the improvement of older houses acquired by them for this purpose, and work was begun to modernise six houses at Corbridge which would otherwise have been demolished. Plans were also made for the improvement of 20 houses at Horsley Wood bought by the Council and lacking modern amenities. This is an interesting extension of the Council's work as a housing authority, and enables a community to remain in being rather than have it transferred in time to new houses elsewhere.

Phases 1 and 2 of the South-West Northumberland Scheme have been completed, and phase 3 is due for comple-

tion in October, 1962. The distribution of mains water is given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the report. Additions are continuously being made to the third phase in accordance with the Council's policy to provide mains water when it can be done at reasonable cost, which is accepted as a figure not exceeding £.350 per house, more expensive extensions being agreed where the owner's contribution reduces the amount per house to this figure. As a result the great majority of properties in the District will have a mains supply. Routine water samples are taken for bacteriological analysis by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company as statutory water undertakers and by the Health Department, and results are inter-changed. Should any sample fall below the required standards remedial action is taken by the Company. In as large a District, of course, some properties cannot be supplied with mains water and must rely on private supplies. These supplies remain the responsibility of the Council, and regular samples are taken of them and of proposed supplies, advice and help being given where the samples are unsatisfactory. In addition to these samples assessed for bacteriological purity three samples were taken during 1961 for chemical analysis and all were reported satisfactory.

Apart from the completion of a relief sewer at Corbridge no work on sewage schemes was carried out during 1961, but new works for Humshaugh and Chesterwood are in course of preparation. The Council have agreed in principle to take part in a joint scheme with the Urban District Council of Hexham by which sewage from the villages of Acomb, Oakwood and Sandhoe will be treated at the Urban Council's proposed new sewage works at Anick Grange. This should be more satisfactory than separate small works, especially from the point of view of maintenance.

In presenting this Report I should like to thank the members of the Council for the active interest they continue to take in the work of the Health Department. I am grateful too to the Clerk and other officials for their help and courtesy. The Public Health Inspectors and the staff continue to work extremely well.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. McEWAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	196,030
Estimated Population 1961	19,980

Vital Statistics

Live Births—	Males	Females	Total	
Legitimate	146	139	285	
Illegitimate	7	6	13	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population.. .. .				15.06
Live birth rate, England and Wales per 1,000 population.. .. .				17.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				4.36
Still Births—	Males	Females	Total	
Legitimate	4	4	8	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still births				26.40
Still-birth rate, England Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births				18.7
Total live and still-births				306
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)				5
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.. .. .				16.14
Infant Mortality Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births				21.4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births — legitimate				16.14
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births — illegitimate				Nil.
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)				15.44
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)				12.35
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births).. .. .				36.08
Deaths from maternal causes.. .. .				Nil.
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still-births				Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)				37
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (All causes and ages)				12.39
Death Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population (All causes and ages)				12.0

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups and also as to their certification :—

AGE GROUP	Certified		Un-certified		TOTALS	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	3	2	—	—	3	2
1—2 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	1	1	1	—	2	1
15—25 ..	1	—	—	—	1	—
25—45 ..	7	4	—	—	7	4
45—50 ..	1	2	—	—	1	2
50—55 ..	5	7	—	—	5	7
55—60 ..	9	4	—	—	9	4
60—65 ..	11	8	—	—	11	8
65—70 ..	23	17	2	3	25	20
70—75 ..	18	26	1	—	19	26
75—80 ..	19	22	2	1	21	23
80—85 ..	18	16	1	—	19	16
85—90 ..	11	15	—	—	11	15
90—95 ..	3	3	—	—	3	3
95—100 ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
100—105 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
	130	128	7	4	137	132

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 living	General Death Rate per 1,000 living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 living
1936	13.2	13.4	66.9
1937	13.2	13.9	60.6
1938	14.1	15.3	68.5
1939	10.7	12.4	79.4
1940	12.2	12.9	56.1
1941	12.0	12.3	42.2
1942	14.4	12.6	21.1
1943	13.7	13.7	37.2
1944	15.4	12.8	44.0
1945	13.2	13.1	31.1
1946	18.1	13.1	46.9
1947	17.4	14.4	34.2
1948	16.0	12.6	18.0
1949	14.3	12.4	23.4
1950	14.8	13.4	29.0
1951	13.86	14.20	28.07
1952	15.32	12.75	54.85
1953	14.67	12.01	27.21
1954	14.57	11.39	20.50
1955	14.36	11.67	17.73
1956	16.14	11.97	14.24
1957	16.17	11.76	25.31
1958	16.14	12.79	16.76
1959	14.78	11.80	21.98
1960	15.52	11.70	26.87
1961	15.06	12.39	16.14

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

10

CAUSES OF DEATH.		M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other ..	1	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections ..	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and para- sitic diseases	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus..	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	9	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	—	1
16.	Diabetes	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	25
18.	Coronary disease, angina ..	37	28
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	2
20.	Other heart disease	11	9
21.	Other Circulatory disease ..	9	13
22.	Influenza	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	7	3
24.	Bronchitis	5	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duo- denum	2	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarr- hoea	1	2
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abor- tion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations ..	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	14
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ..	3	1
34.	All other accidents	3	3
35.	Suicide	2	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	1	—
		137	132
TOTAL ..		269	

Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1961

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH			Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
Prematurity..	..	..	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Birth Injury..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accident	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All causes	{	Certified.	4	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	5
		Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTALS ..			4	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	5

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1961 :-

Age periods	New Cases.				Nett Deaths in Hexham Rural District.			
	Pulmonary.		Non. Pulm.		Pulmonary.		Non. Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	3	—	—	—	1	1	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1937-1961.

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Cerebrospinal Fever.	Acute Polio-myelitis.	Acute Polio-encephalitis.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Smallpox.	Paratyphoid Fevers.	Enteric or Typhoid	Erysipelas.	Food Poisoning.
1937	32	—	4	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	6	—
1938	53	—	13	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	4	—
1939	62	7	28	7	15	—	—	—	—	8	2	—	—	2	8	—
1940	17	11	16	170	14	8	1	—	—	—	11	—	—	1	2	—
1941	11	59	13	91	16	3	—	—	1	9	17	—	—	7	7	—
1942	13	1	7	65	11	3	—	—	12	8	13	—	—	—	3	—
1943	23	24	4	114	20	1	—	—	7	10	18	—	—	—	6	—
1944	29	28	3	32	5	—	—	—	5	15	17	—	—	—	5	—
1945	36	18	8	23	8	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	5	—
1946	21	45	6	81	15	1	3	—	1	—	9	—	—	—	2	—
1947	4	33	9	208	8	—	8	—	1	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
1948	29	56	1	81	8	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	4	—
1949	18	22	—	146	12	—	4	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	6	10
1950	31	99	—	255	26	—	2	—	1	—	10	—	—	—	6	1
1951	14	45	—	220	32	3	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
1952	24	71	—	162	18	—	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	5	1
1953	30	144	—	172	17	—	3	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	5	2
1954	17	74	—	45	11	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
1955	5	64	—	491	13	—	2	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
1956	3	34	—	27	27	—	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	4	—
1957	12	63	—	373	29	—	2	—	7	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
1958	14	30	—	1	26	—	1	—	9	—	25	—	—	—	2	—
1959	11	18	—	420	14	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	2	—
1960	18	3	—	8	23	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1961	12	1	—	289	10	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS YEAR, 1961.

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS RETURNED TO R.G.

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS				Nil
OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE				Nil
SINGLE CASES :—				
Agent identified	..	..	..	Nil
Unknown Cause	..	..	..	Nil
Total				Nil

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

(1) Hospitals

There are in the district four hospitals under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These comprise the Charlotte Straker Hospital and the Bridge End Maternity Hospital at Corbridge, the Dilston Maternity Hospital and Wooley Sanatorium. These hospitals together with the Hexham General Hospital, the Hexham War Memorial Hospital and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious disease requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

(2) Ambulance Service

The British Red Cross Society, acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council, provide an ambulance service which serves the district. Ambulance Stations are situated at Corbridge and at Hexham. Patients requiring transport, but not an ambulance, are brought in by car. In an extensive area with poor communications this is a very valuable service. Some of the cars are provided by the British Red Cross Society, others by agents in the various villages.

(3) Home Help Service

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to households where such help is required owing to illness or confinement, and their services are obtained through the office of the West Area Health Sub-Committee, Priory Buildings, Hexham.

(4) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held by the Northumberland County Council in the district :

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS :

Acomb	..	Miners' Institute Hall, Acomb Alternate Thursdays.
Allendale	..	Dr. Gray's Surgery Second Monday in the month 1-30—4 p.m.
Corbridge	..	Parish Hall, Princes Street Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Haydon Bridge	..	Church Hall Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Humshaugh	..	Village Hall Alternate Thursdays : 1-30—4 p.m.
Newbrough	..	Women's Institute Alternate Wednesdays : 1-30—4 p.m.
Ovington	..	Methodist Church Hall, Ovington Every fourth Tuesday :
Riding Mill	..	Parish Hall Every fourth Thursday : 1-30—4 p.m.
Stocksfield	..	Red Cross Hut Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon 1-30—4 p.m.
Wylam	..	Methodist Church Hall Alternate Tuesdays : 1-30—4 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS :

Allendale	..	Dr. Gray's Surgery Alternate Tuesdays : 1-30—4 p.m.
Stocksfield	..	Red Cross Hut Every fourth Wednesday : 1-30—4 p.m.
Corbridge	..	Parish Hall, Princes Street Alternate Tuesdays : 10 a.m.—12 noon

(5) Midwifery and Home Nursing Service

These services are now administered by the Northumberland County Council and in this area are combined. There are nine Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Rural District.

WATER AND SEWAGE SCHEMES

I am indebted to Mr. W. W. Outhwaite, the Engineer and Surveyor, for giving the following tables of construction works proposed or in hand.

Works to be commenced during 1962 :

Humshaugh	Sewage Disposal Works.
Chesterwood	Sewage Disposal Works.
Corbridge	Relief Sewer (2nd Stage).
Acomb, Oakwood and Anick	Sewage Disposal Works (Joint Scheme with Hexham U.D.C.).
Heugh Houses, Haydon Bridge	Sewage Disposal Works.

Works in course of design and preparation :

Horsley sewage disposal works.
Ovington sewerage and sewage disposal works.
Ovingham sewage disposal works.

Other works to be designed and prepared for completion :

- List A.
1. Hardhaugh sewage disposal works.
 2. Fourstones sewage disposal works.
 3. Broomley sewage disposal works.
 4. Newton sewage disposal works.
 5. Sandhoe sewage disposal works.

- List B.
1. Allenheads sewage disposal works.
 2. Wall sewage disposal works.
 3. Corbridge sewage disposal works.
 4. Blanchland sewage disposal works.

This list is an indication of the urgency of each scheme at the present time, and is not a fixed order for completion. Conditions will vary and some schemes lower in the schedule may have to be brought forward for earlier completion than some schemes at present shown in a higher position.

Comprehensive Water Scheme for South-West Northumberland.

Phase 1.

Gunnerton.
 Barrasford.
 Humshaugh.
 Wall.
 Acomb.
 Fourstones.
 Haydon Bridge and district.
 Whitley Chapel.

Phase 2.

Military Road Area.
 Corbridge.
 Simonburn.
 Riding Mill.
 Healey.

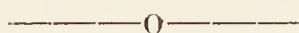
Phase 3.

Newton Village and district.
 Fawcett Hill.
 Gallowhill.
 Allenheads.
 Allendale.
 Langley.
 Warden.
 Hallington.
 Welton.
 Aydon.
 Bridge End area, Hexham.

Phases 1 and 2 have been completed and it is anticipated that Phase 3 will be completed during 1962.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

J. HEWITT, M.A.P.H.I.



Water Supplies :

During the year, 164 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and 3 samples for chemical analysis.

Public Supplies :

Regular samples are taken both by the Council and by Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company. The results of samples taken by the Council are shown in the accompanying table.

The unsatisfactory samples shown against the Colwell supply were check samples of raw water taken before chlorination. Samples taken at the same time after chlorination were satisfactory.

The unsatisfactory samples taken from Corbridge were from the South side supply and as a result of chlorination at the springs, further samples were found to be satisfactory.

Humshaugh is now supplied from the Gunnerton filters and the old supply which was subject to intermittent pollution has been discontinued. Bingfield is a small supply also subject to slight intermittent contamination. Persons using the supply have been advised to boil drinking water.

The following villages were brought on to the Newcastle and Gateshead supply during the year.

Acomb	Newbrough & Fourstones	Wall	Barrasford
Gunnerton	Humshaugh	Whitley	Chapel.

In addition 20 other properties were given connections to the mains.

1. PUBLIC SUPPLIES
Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples.

	Number Satisfactory	Number Un- satisfactory	Number of Samples Taken
Acomb	10	1	11
Allendale	7	2	9
Ropehaugh	2	—	2
Broomley & Stocksfield ..	1	—	1
Broomhaugh	1	—	1
Riding Mill	4	—	4
Colwell	10	10	20
Gunnerton	9	1	10
Barrasford	1	—	1
Corbridge	9	6	15
Haydon	6	1	7
Humshaugh	10	3	13
Newbrough.. ..	12	—	12
Sandhoe	1	—	1
Slaley	1	—	1
Wall (Village)	11	1	12
Bingfield	6	3	9
Whittington	1	—	1
	102	28	130

Private and Proposed Supplies

30 Samples were taken, the results of which are given below.

2. PRIVATE AND PROPOSED SUPPLIES Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples

	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory	Number of Samples Taken
Wellhope, Allendale	1	2	3
Wheelbirks, Stocksfield (House)	2	—	2
do. (Collection Chamber)	—	1	1
Barrasford (Village)	—	1	1
Barrasford Sanatorium (House)	1	—	1
do. (Collection Chamber)	—	1	1
Cubstocks, Haydon Bridge ..	—	1	1
Tedcastle, Haydon Bridge ..			
(Collection) ..	1	1	2
do. (Reservoir) ..	—	1	1
do. (House) ..	—	3	3
Espersields	—	1	1
Eastwood House, Healey ..	—	1	1
Healey Mill	1	—	1
Low Bridges	1	—	1
Newbiggen House			
(Washing only)	—	1	1
do. (Drinking) ..	1	—	1
Newbiggen Hill Farm House ..	1	—	1
Allensford Mill (Spring) ..	—	1	1
do. (Collection Chamber)	1	—	1
Kirkshield, Simonburn ..	—	1	1
Wall Fell Farm	1	—	1
Low Warden House	—	2	2
Broadlea, Ninebanks	1	—	1
	12	18	30

**DETAILS OF HOUSES AND POPULATION
SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES**

PARISH.	SUPPLIED DIRECT TO HOUSES.		SUPPLIED BY STANDPIPE	
	No. of Houses	Popu- lation	No. of Houses	Popu- lation
Acomb	375	1133	5	22
Allendale	737	1524	35	123
Blanchland	62	175	—	—
Broomhaugh & Riding ..	258	578	2	7
Broomley & Stocksfield ..	657	1610	—	—
Chollerton	89	306	10	33
Corbridge	835	2505	—	—
Haydon Bridge	797	2024	—	—
Hedley	59	161	—	—
Hexhamshire	109	340	—	—
Hexham Low Quarter ..	101	232	—	—
Horsley	101	303	—	—
Humshaugh	188	493	—	—
Newbrough	217	539	4	14
Ovingham	179	519	—	—
Ovington	124	372	—	—
Sandhoe	150	357	—	—
Shotley Low Quarter ..	37	111	—	—
Slaley	156	728	—	—
Wall	77	230	—	—
Warden	84	256	—	—
Whittington	51	127	—	—
Wylam	544	1266	—	—
	5987	15889	56	199

HOUSING

Council House Building

22 Houses were completed during the year, all of which were for occupation by old persons.

Of the 18 houses under construction at the end of the year, 8 were general purpose type and 10 old persons.

At the end of the year, the total number of Council houses was 810 of which 67 are old persons' type.

During the year, the Council acquired six houses in Corbridge which were subject to Undertakings made under the Housing Act 1957. The houses will be reconditioned by Improvement grant.

Houses completed in 1961.

	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Unaided</i>	Total
A. BY LOCAL AUTHORITY			
Corbridge	10	—	—
Ovington	7	—	—
Humshaugh	2	—	—
Barrasford	3	—	22
B. BY OTHER PERSONS OR BODIES ..	2	41	43
	24	41	65

Houses under construction 31/12/61.

A. BY LOCAL AUTHORITY			
Corbridge	2	—	—
Stocksfield	16	—	18
B. BY OTHER PERSONS OR BODIES	—	58	58
	18	58	76

Council House Applications

There was an increase in the number of applications for general purpose type houses during the year, the number now being 303, of these it is considered that approximately half have grounds for rehousing. The number of applications for old persons' type houses continues to increase and although 28 applicants were rehoused during the year, at the end of the year there were 154 applications on the list.

82 Families were rehoused during the year, 22 in new houses (all old persons') and 34 as a result of casual vacancies which occurred during the year (28 general purpose type and 6 old persons'). By exchanges of tenancy 19 families were moved into houses more suitable to their requirements, there were also two exchanges of tenancy between Council house tenants and tenants of private houses in the district, and one exchange between a tenant in this District and a Council house tenant from another authority.

DETAILS OF COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES AT 31/12/61

DISTRICT	Pre-War Houses	Agri-cultural Cottages	Post- War Houses		Total
			General/Purpose	Old Persons	
Acomb	26	—	62	9	97
Allendale	—	—	20	—	20
Barrasford	—	—	16	3	19
Bingfield	—	4	—	—	4
Colwell	—	—	5	—	5
Corbridge	26	—	113 (in. 2 shops)	10	149
Fourstones	12	—	16	—	28
Gunnerton	—	—	6	—	6
Haydon Bridge	18	—	88	8	114
Hedley	1	—	—	—	1
Horsley	—	4	9	—	13
Humshaugh	6	—	6	2	14
Juniper	—	2	—	—	2
Newbrough	—	—	49	14	63
New Ridley	12	—	—	—	12
Ovingham	6	—	46	—	52
Ovington	18	—	12	10	40
Slaley	—	4	12	—	16
Stocksfield	—	—	48	—	48
Wall	8	—	8	—	16
Whittington	—	4	—	—	4
Wylam	—	—	76	9	85
Riding Mill	—	—	—	2	2
	133	18	592	67	810

Council House Maintenance

Tenders were let for the external painting of 100 Council houses, all of which were completed during the year. In addition outstanding contracts from the previous year relating to 85 houses were also completed.

2,103 Visits were made dealing with the general supervision of Council houses and 1,026 items of disrepair were dealt with.

Improvement Grants

There was again a slight decrease in the number of applications for grant on the previous year, 64 being approved compared with 75 in 1960.

Since the inception of the scheme in 1951, 754 applications have been approved, and perhaps the most disappointing feature is the fact that of these only one fifth have been in respect of rented houses. The majority of applications have been for farm and estate cottages, and approximately one third in respect of houses which were owner occupied. It is hoped that the Housing Act of 1961, which provides that the rent limit may be increased for improvements by $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ instead of 8% per annum will give an incentive to landlords to modernise their properties.

Standard Grants

5 Applications for Standard Grant were received during the year.

- 1 to provide wash hand basin.
- 3 to provide internal W.C.
- 1 to provide wash hand basin and internal W.C.

The following are the approximate proportions of different types of houses for which grants have been made :

1.	Farm & Estate cottages.	310	..	41%
2.	Owner occupied.. ..	227	..	30%
3.	Rented houses	152	..	20%
4.	Farm houses	65	..	9%
		754		100%

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPROVED

Year	No. of houses	Total Cost of works	Grants Approved
		£	£
1951	1	574	287
1952	12	4,610	2,305
1953	32	16,270	8,135
1954	92	51,842	25,000
1955	110	71,394	29,947
1956	102	65,529	28,528
1957	95	75,761	30,438
1958	72	54,827	20,999
1959	99	66,257	28,703
1960	75	60,799	27,761
1961	64	53,532	18,493
Totals	754	£521,395	£220,596

Unfit Houses

Slum Clearance Programme

The Council's proposals submitted to the Ministry in 1955 provided for the clearance of 73 houses in the 10 year programme. 47 To be dealt with in the first five year period, 1st January 1956 — 31st December, 1960, and 26 in the second five years 1st January, 1961 — 31st December, 1965.

All houses in the programme have been dealt with and in addition action has been taken against 64 houses which were not included originally, making a total of 137 properties.

It is considered that the Slum Clearance Programme, as such, has been completed, and action against individual unfit houses will be taken as and when the occasion arises in the future.

The following schedule shows the current position.

CLEARANCE OF UNFIT HOUSES

Summary of First Five Years

(1st January, 1956 — 31st December, 1960)

Number to be dealt with in programme	..	..	47
A. Number dealt with by Council	..	30	
B. Number resolved without Council action	..	..	5

C. Number repaired or improved by owners	12	
D. Number outstanding.. .. .	Nil	
	—	47
Additional houses dealt with which were not included in the original programme		56
TOTAL NUMBER DEALT WITH		103

Summary of Following Five Years

(1st January, 1961 — 1st March, 1962)

Number to be dealt with in programme		26
A. Number dealt with by Council	6	
B. Number resolved without Council action	2	
C. Number repaired or improved by owners	18	
D. Number outstanding.. .. .	Nil	
	—	26
Additional houses dealt with which were not included in the original programme		8
TOTAL NUMBER DEALT WITH		34

Summary of Total Programme

(1st January, 1956 — 1st March, 1962)

Number of houses to be dealt with in programme.. .. .		73
A. Number dealt with by Council	36	
B. Number resolved without Council action	7	
C. Number repaired or improved by owners	30	
D. Number outstanding	Nil	
	—	73
Additional houses dealt with which were not included in the original programme		64
TOTAL NUMBER DEALT WITH		137

Rent Act, 1957

One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was made, and a certificate was issued.

Privy Conversions

10 Grants towards the cost of converting privies were approved.

Schools at Beaufront Woodhead, Humshaugh and Whitley Chapel were converted to water carriage.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Meat Inspection

3,394 animals were slaughtered and inspected during the year.

The figures in the accompanying tables give details of meat condemned. Of the 723 bovine animals inspected during the year one only was affected with tuberculosis. In this case the disease was of a localised nature and it was found necessary to condemn only a portion (35 lbs.) of the carcase.

As in previous years cirrhosis of the liver was the most common cause for condemnation. Out of the 127 animals which were found to have some part or organ affected 107 or 84% had cirrhotic livers and accounted for 78% of the total weight of meat condemned.

All diseased meat is stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations. Small quantities are taken by the Council's Refuse Collectors and buried in tips. Larger amounts are accepted at the Hexham Abattoir and disposed of with condemned meat from Hexham.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

At the beginning of the year there were 10 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, 9 of which were used regularly.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had accepted the 1st July, 1961 as the date from which all slaughterhouses in the area must comply fully with the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 and the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.

At that date application for renewal of slaughterhouse licences had been received from :—

1. Allendale Co-op. Society Ltd., Shield Street, Allendale.
2. G. Hall, Hill Street, Corbridge.
3. Haydon Bridge Co-op. Society Ltd., Shaftoe Street, Haydon Bridge.

4. M. C. Renwick & Son, Great Whittington.
5. S. M. Whitelaw, Greenfield House, Stocksfield.
6. T. W. & R. Jewitt, Ivy Cottage, Whittonstall.
7. W. Glendinning, Catton.
8. R. H. Hutchinson, West End Terrace, Humshaugh.

The approval of the Ministry had been received for the issue of a licence to Messrs. Philipson & Liddell of Slaley who had built new premises. The licence for the old building was to lapse. Messrs. L. & G. Lawson, Branch House, Stocksfield had intimated that they did not intend to make application for the renewal of the licence for their slaughterhouse at Branch End.

Licences have been issued for all Slaughterhouses in the area with one exception. In this instance all the works necessary to bring the premises up to standard had not been carried out, and some were still outstanding at the end of the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number of animals killed Dressed and undressed carcases	715	1	7	2544	127
Number inspected	715	1	7	2544	127
<i>All diseases except tuber- culosis :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	127	—	—	13	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	17.77	—	—	.59	2.36
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	—	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.14	—	—	—	2.36

SUMMARY OF CARCASE MEAT AND OFFALS CONDEMNED

	Tuberculosis	Other diseases and conditions	TOTAL
Cattle (excluding Cows)	35 lbs	1947 lbs	1982 lbs
Cows	—	—	—
Other animals ..	30 lbs	128 lbs	158 lbs
TOTAL ..	65lbs	2075 lbs	2140 lbs

DISEASE OR CONDITION	Weight of meat condemned
	lbs.
Tuberculosis	65
Cirrhosis	1644
Abscesses	97
Actinobacillosis	35
Actinomycosis	35
Arthritis	3
Cysticercus Bovis	100
Cysts	4
Haemangioma	14
Injuries and Bruising	22
Oedema and Emaciation	84
Parasites.. .. .	22
Peritonitis	8
Pleurisy	3
Pneumonia	4
TOTAL ..	2189

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR SEIZED

Unsound Food	Surrendered	Seized	Legal proceedings
Tinned Meats	73 lbs	--	—
Other Tinned Foods ..	206 lbs	--	—

2. Food Inspection

233 visits were made to food premises during the year. The standard of cleanliness of both premises and personnel continues to be satisfactory.

During the year sanitary accommodation and washing arrangements have been provided in 3 premises where there were no facilities previously.

No prosecutions were taken under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Details of food premises in the area are shown in the table.

PARISH

PARISH	1. Hotels and Inns	2. Social Clubs and Public Halls	3. School Canteens	4. Works Canteens	5. Butchers	6. General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners.	7. Cafes	8. Fish & Chip Shops.	9. Wet Fish Shops.	10. Bakehouses.	11. Hospitals	Totals
Acomb	3	2	1	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	12
Allendale	14	5	4	—	2	13	1	—	—	—	—	39
Blanchland	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Broomhaugh/Riding	2	1	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	9
Broomley	1	3	3	1	2	8	—	—	—	2	—	20
Bywell..	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Chollerton	3	4	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	14
Corbridge	8	5	3	1	3	14	2	1	1	1	3	42
Haydon	6	4	5	—	2	15	—	1	—	2	—	35
Healey	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Hedley	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Hexham Low Quarter	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hexhamshire	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Horsley	2	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	7
Humshaugh	2	1	1	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	10
Newbrough	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Ovingham	2	2	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	9
Ovington	2	3	1	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	12
Sandhoe	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6
Shotley Low Quarter	2	1	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	9
Simonburn	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Slaley	2	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	8
Wall ..	1	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	6
Warden	2	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	6
West Allen	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
Whittington	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Wylam	5	4	1	—	1	11	—	—	—	1	—	23
	66	48	39	3	17	109	5	4	1	6	6	304

3. Ice Cream

There are 77 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream.

SAMPLING

Type of Sample	Number taken	Grading			
		1	2	3	4
Pre-packed	55	55	—	—	—

REMOVAL OF DOMESTIC REFUSE

As in previous years the direct labour scavenging is carried out by four Bedford Vehicles, 2 of 5 cubic yards, 1 of 7 cubic yards and 1 of 10 cubic yards capacity. The vehicle serving the Stocksfield and Wylam areas has a driver and two loaders, the others are worked with a driver and one loader.

During the year further extensions to the scavenging have been made to include 17 properties in the Allendale area. These together with new buildings and other small extensions make a total of 103 additional properties included in the service, which covers 84% of the houses in the district. Details are shown in the following tables.

1. By direct labour

No. of premises

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS :

Corbridge and Dilston	891
Stocksfield	662
Wylam	542
Haydon Bridge and Brokenheugh ..	528
Fourstones, Newbrough, Settlingstones ..	343
Acomb	307
Riding Mill	160
Humshaugh, Walwick, Lincoln Hill ..	143
Wall	85
Slaley, Trygill	86
Sandhoe, Stagshaw	64
Broomhaugh	61
Warden	58
Anick, Oakwood, The Riding ..	94
Hedley	46
Hexhamshire	39

FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTIONS :

Juniper	52
Blanchland	43
Whittonstall	36
North Tyne, Whittington, Halton, Shildon Aydon, Newton Hall, Stelling, Bywell, Peepy	549
Minsteracres, Kilnpit Hill, Millshields	
Broomley	123
	4912

2. By Contract

	<i>No. of houses scavenged</i>
Allendale and Catton	430
Allenheads, Carrshield, Ninebanks	189
Ovingham	231
Ovington	154
Horsley	96
	1100
	6012

Scavenging Statistics

Total number of occupied houses in district	7093
Total number of houses scavenged	6012
Percentage of houses scavenged by direct labour.. .. .	69%
Percentage of houses scavenged by contract	15%
Percentage of houses scavenged	84%
Total estimated tonnage collected per annum	7749

Refuse Disposal

During the year the refuse tip at Pasture House Quarry, Whittonstall was closed. This tip was acquired by the Council in 1954, but with the purchase of a larger scavenging vehicle and the extension of the scavenging area to include properties in the Shotley district the tip is not used, refuse being taken to Mereburn Wood.

The Council now have 22 tips in use in various parts of the district, one of which Franham Fell is used jointly with Hexham U.D.C.

The areas served by these tips are as follows :—

Allendale & Catton	Smelt Mill Quarry, Ropehaugh. Frolar Meadows, Allendale. Shilburn, Allendale. Harlow Hill, Catton.
West Allen	Barney Crag Mine.
Langley & Haydon Bridge	East Mill Hills Quarry, Haydon Bridge.
Acomb.	Charehead, Acomb.
Wall & Humshaugh.	Brunton Bank, Quarry.
Simonburn, Gunnerton, Barrasford	Reaverhill, Barrasford.
Swinburn & Colwell	South Farm Quarry, Colwell.
Whittington	Quarry House, Whittington.
Aydon, Newton & Bywell	Planetrees Quarry, Bywell.
Sandhoe, Corbridge & Dilston	Milkwell Quarry, Corbridge.
Ovington, Ovingham & Wylam	“ Y ” Wood, Ovingham.
Horsley	Horsley Wood, Horsley.
Stocksfield & Hedley	Low Bridges Sand Quarry.
Broomhaugh & Riding Mill	Low Shilford, Stocksfield.
Shotley Low Quarter	Mereburn Wood.
Slaley and Juniper	Holly Hill, Slaley.
Hexhamshire	Mire House Quarry, Whitley Chapel.
Blanchland	Shildon Wood, Blanchland.
Newbrough & Warden	Frankham Fell Quarry, Fourstones.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Part I of the Act.

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	76	100	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	11	11	—	—
TOTAL	92	121	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.) ...	4	4	—	—	.
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	5	—	1	—

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

There are no persons residing in the Hexham Rural District employed as outworkers.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

All tips and sewage disposal works are regularly treated, and are practically free from rat infestation. Sewers have been test baited and are also free.

1. Agricultural Premises.

Number of Inspections	Major Infestations	Minor Infestations	Clear
277	28	71	178

2. Other Premises. Treated by Council.

Type of Premises	Number of treatments	Dead Rats recovered	Dead Mice recovered
Private Houses	210	20	65
Refuse Tips	79	31	—
Sewers & Sewage Works ..	17	8	—

In addition 34 houses were treated for insect pests.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have specified Model Standards with respect to the lay-out of and the provision of services and equipment for caravan sites and require that the local authority shall have regard to these standards in deciding what (if any), conditions are to be attached to licences.

This authority has decided that in the case of a site for a single caravan the conditions attached to the licence should normally be confined to water supply, sanitation and refuse disposal and that larger sites should conform generally with the model standards.

During the year, two licences were issued :

1. One caravan at Old Smithy, Low Staples, Steel.
2. Site for 18 caravans, East Crookhill, Stocksfield.

As planning permission for the latter site expires on 31st March, 1963 it was not considered reasonable to require the expenditure necessary to bring the site up to model standards, as a result only conditions relating to water supply, refuse disposal and fire fighting equipment were imposed.

Several applications for licences are pending. Inspections have been made, and the various site owners have been advised of the Council's policy and requirements.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS

From 1st January, 1961 to 31st December, 1961

Council Housing (Allocation)	..	..	..	..	622
Council Housing (Repairs & Management)	..	..	..	..	2103
Housing	..	..	..	..	516
Housing Survey	..	..	..	..	74
Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	724
Food Inspection	..	..	..	..	15
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	233
Milk Sampling	..	..	..	..	6
Ice-Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	79
Ice-Cream Sampling	..	..	..	..	56
Drainage	..	..	..	..	49
Testing of Drains	..	..	..	..	169
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	2
Factories	..	..	..	..	121
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	15
Keeping of Animals	..	..	..	..	—
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	59
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	72
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	—
Privy Conversions	..	..	..	..	31
Scavenging	..	..	..	..	235
Water Supplies (General)	..	..	..	..	10
Water Supplies (Sampling)	..	..	..	..	200
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	96
TOTAL					5487

